

Preliminary Amendment

Attorney Reference: 041301/0284989

Page 4

REMARKS

The present amendment adds reference to the priority applications to the specification and further amends Claims 3-10, 12, 15, 17 and 19-20 to remove multiple dependencies from the claims. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: Richard A. Steinberg
Richard A. Steinberg
Registration No. 26,588

Paul L. Sharer
Registration No. 36,004

1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 905-2000
(703) 905-2500 Facsimile

Date: February 14, 2002
Attorney Reference: 041301/0284989

Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX: VERSION TO SHOWS CHANGES MADE TO APPLICATION**In the Claims**

The claims were amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the polyester has a Tg of at least 75°C.
12. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the polyester has a Tg of about 77°C and a molecular weight of about 7,500.
13. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises filler material.
14. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more ultra-violet light absorbers.
15. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more optical brighteners.
16. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a film of heat-resistant material selected from polyesters, polyamides, polyimides, polycarbonates, polysulphones, polypropylene and cellophane.
17. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness in the range 0.5 to 5.0µm, preferably 1.5 to 3.5µm, typically 1.6 to 2.0µm.
18. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, further comprising a subcoat between the substrate and coating.
13. (Amended) A thermal transfer medium according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the other surface of the substrate has a heat-resistant backcoat.

*Preliminary Amendment*Attorney Reference: 041301/0284989

Page 6

15. (Amended) A method of forming an overlay on a receiver material, comprising superposing a thermal transfer medium in accordance with [any one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1 and a receiver material; and applying localised heating to the thermal transfer medium to form an overlay on the receiver material.
18. (Amended) Receiver material bearing an overlay produced by the method of claim 15 [or 16].
19. (Amended) Receiver material according to claim 17 [or 18], wherein the receiver material has an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer.
20. (Amended) Receiver material according to claim 17[, 18 or 19,] in the form of an identification card bearing a full colour image produced by thermal transfer printing and text and/or a bar code produced by mass transfer printing of colorant.